



# *Practical Tips for Container Gardening*

OKLAHOMA COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE  
2500 NE 63rd Street

Ask a Master Gardener  
713-1125

# *Overview*

- Basics
- Container Gardening in OK
- Ideas

## Container Choice

❑ There are many possible containers for gardening.

➤ Clay / Ceramic:

+ Doesn't tip easily

+ Attractive

+ Don't rot

- Heavier to move

- Dry out quicker



# Container Choice

❑ There are many possible containers for gardening.

➤ Wood:

- + Relatively inexpensive per unit area
- + You can build your own design
- Can rot
- Lumber may have been treated





## Container Choice

❑ There are many possible containers for gardening.

➤ Plastic:

- + Light and easy to move
- + Cheaper than ceramic pots
- + Retain moisture
- May tip over
- Need to insure good drainage



## Container Choice

❑ There are many possible containers for gardening.

➤ Metal:

- + More durable
- Cheaper metals rust out and are easily dented
- Can become very hot if in full sun
- Shiny trash can kinds may look unattractive to neighbors.



## Container Choice

- ❑ Whatever type of container you use, be sure that there are holes in the bottom for drainage so plant roots do not stand in water.
- ❑ Most plants need containers at least 6 to 8 inches deep for adequate root development.
- ❑ As long as the container meets the basic requirements described above, it can be used.

## Container Location

- Decks, balconies, driveways, side walks, and window boxes
- 6-8 hrs sun for warm season
- 4-5 hrs sun for cool season
- Access to water



- Be careful of microclimates
- The water that drains from containers can stain concrete
- A 20-inch container filled with moist growing medium = 100 lbs!

## Growing Media

- ❑ A growing medium needs to be porous because roots require both air and water.
- ❑ The medium must provide:
  - water,
  - nutrients and
  - a physical support to grow healthy plants.
- ❑ The medium must drain well.

# Growing Media

## Commercial Soil-Less Mixes

- Excellent choice for containers
- Lightweight, drain well, hold water and nutrients,
- Are generally free of weeds, insects, and diseases
- Have ideal pH
- “Organic” soil-less mixes contain no chemical wetting agents and substitute organic for chemical fertilizers